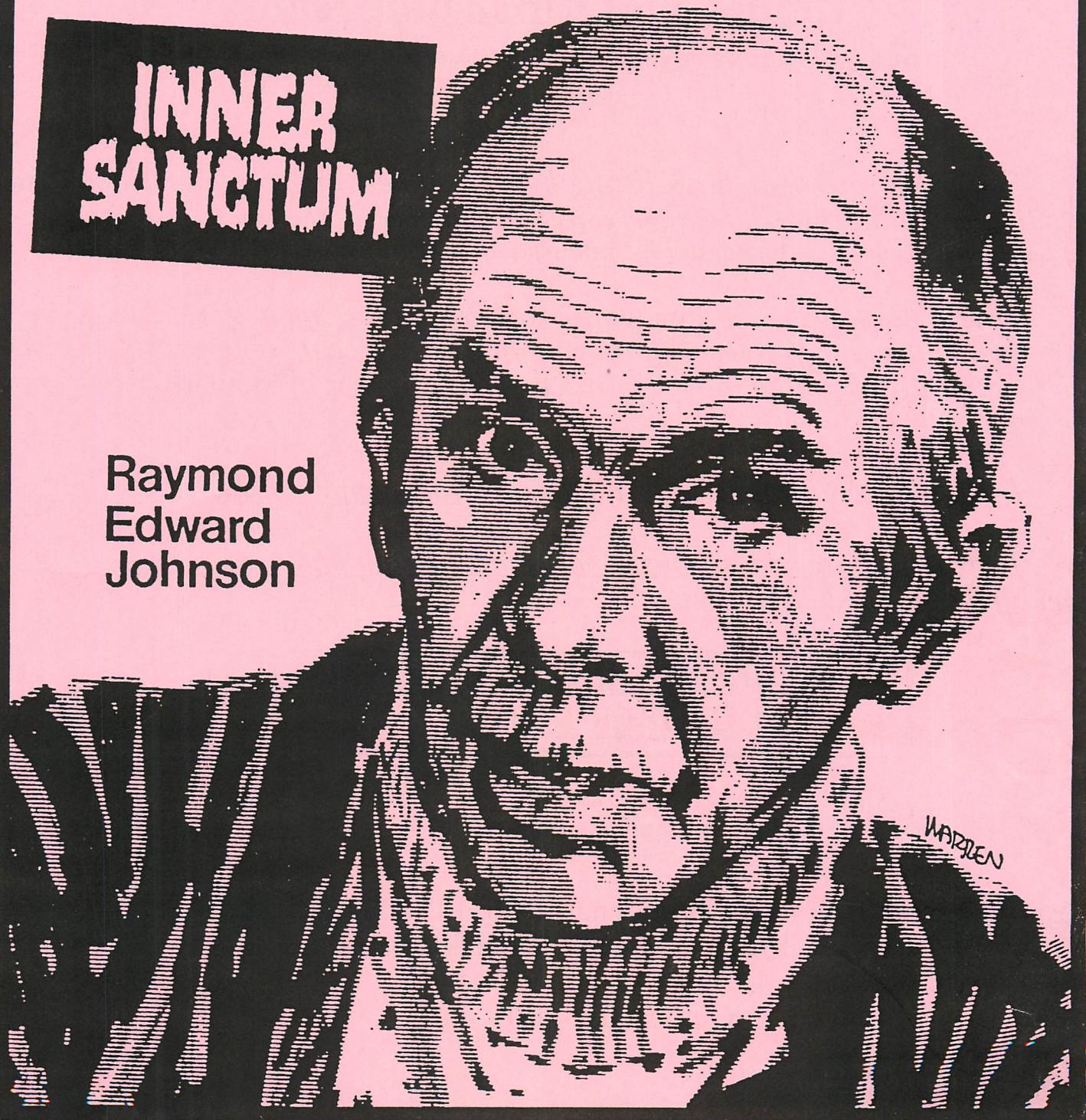




60 years ago some of us were listening to radio when the war started. It wasn't **The Life of Riley** then, but it will be now at the **26th Annual Friends of Old Time Radio Convention** Oct 25-28, 2001 at the Holiday Inn North, Newark.

INNER SANCTUM

Raymond
Edward
Johnson



—REVISED—

The 2nd Revised Ultimate History of Network

Radio Programming and Guide to All Circulating Shows

*written by Jay Hickerson, October, 2001
Editor of Hello Again*

- # *560-page reference book listing over 6000 network, regional, local and syndicated radio programs. (Soft cover and spiral bound). This information was first presented in this combined format in 1992 with separate publications issued in 1986.*
- # *Traces each program by giving broadcast dates, sponsors, network and air time. Often a brief description with one or two cast members is given. The main purpose, however, is to trace each program by showing when it was on the air.*
- # *Includes theme music titles if known. Most complete source available.*
- # *Lists ALL shows available to collectors. Exact dates and sources are mentioned in most cases.*

<p><u>INCLUDES ALL INFORMATION AS OF</u></p> <p><u>OCTOBER 1, 2001</u></p>
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Cost: \$47 plus \$4 postage and handling

Jay Hickerson, Box 4321, Hamden, CT 06514 (203) 248-2887
FAX (203) 281-1322 E-mail: JayHick@aol.com

October 13, 2001

SPECIAL GUESTS

ARTHUR ANDERSON – *Hotel For Pets, Let's Pretend*
GEORGE ANSBRO – (Announcer) ABC
RUSSELL ARMS – (Television) Your Hit Parade
MARGOT AVERY – (Actress) Broadway - the Prime of Miss Jean Brodie
DICK BEALS – *The Lone Ranger; Gunsmoke; "Speedy" Alka-Seltzer*
CLIFF CARPENTER – *County Seat, Prairie Folk*
BEN COOPER – *Mark Trail, Second Mrs. Burton*; (Television, Movies)
MARY DIVENY – TV, Broadway, Movies, Radio
HARRY FLEETWOOD – *Music Through the Night* (NBC)
ART GILMORE – (Announcer) *Amos 'n Andy*
BOB HASTINGS – *Archie Andrews* (TV) *McHale's Navy*
PAT HOSLEY – *A Brighter Day*
WILL HUTCHINS – (TV) *Blondie; Sugarfoot*
HAROLD JOHNSON – Sound Effects Artist

RUTH LAST – *Let's Pretend, Quiet Please* (Television, movies, writer)
KEVIN O'MORRISON – *Charlie Wild*
BILL OWEN – (Announcer for Mutual)
ELLIOTT (TED) REID – *March of Time, Lorenzo Jones*
ROSEMARY RICE – *Archie Andrews; Let's Pretend*
LYNNE ROGERS – *The Light of the World*
MARGOT STEVENSON – *The Shadow*
GIL STRATTON, JR. – *My Little Margie*
BEVERLY WASHBURN – *Jack Benny*, (Television) *Star Trek*; New Loretta Young Show
ROBERT WHITE – (Singer) *Fred Allen; Hour of Charm; Coast to Coast on a Bus*
MICHAEL TOWNSEND WRIGHT (Actor, singer) Mainly in New York area

JANET CANTOR GARI – Eddie Cantor's Daughter
BRIAN GARI – Eddie Cantor's grandson
MARLA CANTOR – Daughter of Charlie Cantor

AUTHORS

STUART HAMPLE (About Fred Allen)
MICHAEL HAYDE (About Jack Webb and Dragnet)
JOHN JACKSON (About Alan Freed)
LOU MIANO (About Russ Columbo)

This Convention is dedicated to Raymond Edward Johnson

Others who will be missed are Adele Ronson. Lucille Fletcher, Betty Mandeville

SCHEDULE – 2001

All programs in the Lenox/Tiffany Rooms; All re-creations in the Dresden/Lenox/Tiffany Rooms

Readings, meetings in the Ascot Room or Conference Room #4

Rehearsals in the Dresden Room (All rehearsals are closed unless specified otherwise)

Writing Workshops in Sutton Room

Dealers in Conference and Waterford Rooms

Wednesday Evening

Complementary Wine and Cheese from 6 pm to 10 pm.

Thursday:

The sound equipment and the stage will be set up. Dealers will be open at 9 am.

9:00 – 5:30	Dealers
12:30 - 2:30	Fan tryout for Variety Show (Dresden) (Dave Zwengler)
2:30 - 4:00	Rehearsal for Variety Show (Dresden)
1:45 – 2:30 Barbara Schwarz)	In Name Only: Duffy, Myrt and Friends of Vic and Sade; (Derek Tague with
2:45 – 3:45	Good Will Hutchins (Mitchell Weisberg)
4:30 – 5:30	The Avenger (Tom Powers)
5:30 – 8:00	Cocktails and Dinner; raffle
8:15 – 9:00	Original re-creation by K E Bibeau (Fu Manchu) directed by Arthur Anderson
9:15 – 10:00	Variety show by fans

Friday Morning and Afternoon

9:00 – 5:30	Dealers
9:00 – 9:45	Top Ten Mystery shows (Gary Yogg)
10:00 – 10:45	Radio Script Writing (A Anderson, D Zwengler, J Gallagher); Other workshops
will be held Saturday from 9:30 to 11:30 am and 1 - 3 pm in the Sutton Room with John Gallagher	
11:00 – 11:45	A Presentation by George Downes about mp3's and computers in OTR
12:00 – 1:00	One on One with Ben Cooper (M Weisberg)
1:15 – 2:00 White	Fred Allen and Me featuring author and humorist, Stuart Hample with Robert
2:15 – 3:15	Robert White with Joel Silberman Remembers Radio's Little Bobby White
3:30 – 4:30	Remember Pearl Harbor (Gary Yogg, Dave Zwengler)
4:45 – 5:30	(Re-creation) (Original musical story) "The Man who Couldn't Make Music"
John Gallagher (Director) of the Living Audio Repertory Company; Music and Lyrics by Eric Houghton; Book and Additional Lyrics by John Gallagher	

Friday Evening

5:30 – 7:45	Cocktails and Dinner, raffle
8:00 – 8:45	(Re-creation) Charlie Wild with Kevin O'Morrison; Dir. by Don Ramlow
9:00 – 9:30	(Re-creation of Chick Carter with Dick Beals) Directed by Anthony Tollin
9:45 – 10:30	(Re-creation) Red Ryder ; Directed. by Anthony Tollin

Saturday Morning and Afternoon

9:00 – 3:00 Dealers

9:00 – 9:45 Vox pop Goes to War: The Wartime Travels of Parks Johnson (Michael Henry)

9:30 – 11:30 Radio Script Writing (John Gallagher) (In Sutton Room)

10:00 – 10:45 Who Wants to be An OTR Trivia Champion - Part 2 (Mitchell Weisberg)

11:00 – 11:45 Jack French presents "Radio's Breakfast Couples"

12:00 – 12:45 Gotham Players (Re-creation) Suspense "Heavens to Betsy" with Dick Beals;
Directed and produced by Steve Lewis and Max Schmid

1:00 – 2:00 Dragnet Panel hosted by Derek Tague; Guests include Art Gilmore, Michael
Hayde, Gil Stratton, Jr., Dick Beals

1:00 – 3:00 Radio Script Writing (John Gallagher) (In Sutton Room)

2:15 – 3:15 Panel – 50 years of "The Golden days of Radio" about Frank Bresee with
Anthony Tollin

3:30 - 4:45 Singers, musicians and Big Bands, Part 4 (Stu Weiss and Michael Henry) with
guests : Beverly Washburn, Russell Arms, Michael Townsend Wright and authors John Jackson and Lou
Miano

5:00 – 5:30 Re-creation: **Lorenzo Jones** ; Directed by Bill Nadel

Saturday Evening

5:30 – 8:15 Cocktails and Dinner, raffle, awards

8:30 – 9:15 (Re-creation) **Frontier Gentleman** directed by Arthur Anderson with Cliff
Carpenter

9:30 - 10:15 (Re-creation) **Life of Riley**; with Rosemary Rice and Ted Reid; directed by
Gary Yogg

Sunday Morning

7:00 – 9:30 am Breakfast in the Restaurant

9:30 – 11:00 am Informal Panel (Dresden Room)

OTHER INFORMATION

Ascot Room and Conference Room #4 will be available much of the time from Thursday through Saturday night. It should be used for interviews, meetings and readings.

Sutton Room will be used for writing workshops all day Saturday. Check the schedule

1. No smoking in convention area and any other place on main floor. This means NO SMOKING in halls and near registration area.
2. Do not interview in hallways and please do not congest the registration area. Interviews are to be held in the Ascot room mentioned above.
3. Interviews and autographs are NOT to be gotten in the workshop rooms after the workshops. Use Ascot Room. We must get ready for the next workshop.
4. A cash sandwich bar will be open for lunch on Thursday, Friday and Saturday in convention area. Complimentary coffee, bagels and muffins will be available early Thursday – Saturday mornings.
5. All audio and video tapes of the convention can be ordered from Don Aston, Box 1392, Lake Elsinore, CA 92531; 1-888-331-8776; FAX 909-244-0022; Email <aston@linkline.com>. Cost for all videos and audios is \$65

COMMITTEE AND WORKSHOP LEADERS

GENERAL CHAIRMAN:

Jay Hickerson

PROGRAM AND RE-CREATION DIRECTORS: Don Ramlow, Arthur Anderson, Anthony Tollin, Gary Yogg, Bill Nadel, Max Schmid, Steve Lewis, Dave Zwengler, John Gallagher

MUSIC COORDINATOR

Ed Clute

PUBLICITY: WEB SITE

Sean Dougherty, Charles Summers

CONVENTION GUEST COORDINATORS

Jeff and Walt Muller

RIDE COORDINATOR

Bill Nadel

SOUND ENGINEER

Bill Siudmak

SOUND EFFECTS

Bart Curtis, Anthony Tollin, Steve Lewis,

Bill Nadel

ALL OTHERS:

Tom Powers

Dave and Susan Siegel

Bob Burchett

Karen Hickerson

Jack French

Alice Anderson

Derek Tague

Mary Ramlow

Gordon Payton

Arlene Sabba-Maher

Andy Blatt

Mitchell and Eva Weisberg

Michael Henry

George Downes

Fred Shay

Ron Lackmann

Lee Munsick

Lora Palmer

Stu Weiss

Bob Madison

Joan Beck

Don Aston

Paul Mellos

K E Bibeau

FUTURE CONVENTION DATES:

2002: October 24 – 27; 2003 October 23 – 26

REMINISCING

Old-time radio buffs have been honoring the radio stars of yesteryear annually since 1971, when our first old-time radio convention was held. The popularity of the conventions has grown steadily over the past 30 years. The first convention hosted 4 special guests. This year we are honoring over 30 actors, actresses, writers, producers, directors and technicians from the East and West Coasts who made the age of radio a truly golden era. What better way to pay tribute to all our guests than to meet them in person at this, our 25th annual convention of the **FRIENDS OF OLD-TIME RADIO**, and express the enjoyment their performances brought and still bring to us.

The **FRIENDS OF OLD-TIME RADIO, Inc.** is a group of fans and collectors who meet once a year for this non-profit convention. All monies collected are used for hotel, transportation and other convention costs.

The **Allen Rockford Award** was established in 1979 following the death of Allen Rockford at the age of 35 on March 29. Allen was coeditor with Don Richardson of **Nostalgia Radio News**, an excellent monthly OTR publication. The publication started when Allen started his coverage of stations in central New York and Canada carrying Old-time radio. This led to **Nostalgia Radio News**. Allen was active in putting early radio on central New York stations and carried his own show called **Sounds of Yesterday** for several years on WRVO-FM in Oswego. He was an announcer and newscaster for WONO in Syracuse for many years. With Don Richardson, Allen also ran Double-R-Radio, a business specializing in tapes and recordings of old-time radio shows. Allen was an authority on early radio and constantly helped anyone who needed it.

RECIPIENTS ALLEN ROCKFORD AWARD

1979	Ken Piletic	1987	SPERDVAC	1997	Ed Clute
1980	Charles Ingersoll	1988	Barbara Watkins		Michael Sprague
	John Dunning		Barry Hill	1998	Chuck Schaden
1981	Charles Stumpf	1989	Bob Burchett	1999	Charles Summers
1982	Roger Hill		Terry Salomonson	2000	Nana Clute
1983	Ray Stanich	1990	Don Aston		Mary Ramlow
1984	Jim Snyder		Dave Warren		Steve Hiss
	Bob Burnham	1991	Tom Monroe		
1985	Dick Osgood		Anthony Tollin		
1986	Frank Bresee	1992	Max Schmid		
1993	Jack French		Gary Yogg		
	Larry & John Gassman	1994	Bill Bragg		
1995	Joe Webb		David Siegel		
	Art Schreiber	1996	Bill Nadel		
	Bobb Lynes		Don Ramlow		

FLORENCE WILLIAMS AWARD

1979	Raymond E. Johnson	1985	Ken Ross	1995	Earl George
	Rosa Rio		Terry Ross		Bob Hastings
1980	Bob Prescott Jr.		Mrs. Brace Beemer	1996	Fred Foy
	Pete Prescott		Jay Hickerson		Abby Lewis
1981	Mike Warren	1986	Max Schmid		Sybil Trent
1982	(None)	1987	Sidney Slon	1997	Rosemary Rice
1983	Arthur Anderson		Anthony Tollin		Bob Mott
	Fran Striker Jr.	1988	Bob Steele, Ezra Stone	1998	Dick Beals
1984	Don Richardson	1989	Florence Williams		Ted Reid
	Jackson Beck		Dwight Weist	1999	Pat Hosley
1990	Margot Stevenson		Joe Franklin	2000	Will Hutchins
	George Ansbro	1991	Fran Carlon		
1992	Ken Roberts		Ray Erlenborn		
	Peg Lynch		Barney Beck		
1993	Lon Clark	1994	Bob Dryden		
	Adele Ronson		Arthur Tracy		

RAY STANICH AWARD

John Dunning; Frank Buxton; Bill Owen; Ron Lackmann; Martin Grams, Jr.; Gary Yogg

DONATIONS OVER THE YEARS

Frank Nelson Scholarship Fund	Society for Singers
Veteran's Bedside Network	Stephanie Joyce Kahn Foundation
Thousand Oaks Library	The Actor's Fund
Episcopal Actor's Guild	Billy Rose Collection, N Y Public Library
Kate Smith Foundation	Heller Memorial Foundation of AFTRA
Broadcast Pioneers Library	Yesterday USA
WBAI	Old-time Radio Digest (Internet)
Museum of Television and Radio	

CONVENTION HIGHLIGHTS

2000

The Friends of Old-time Radio held its 25th Annual Convention from October 19 – 22, 2000 at the Holiday Inn – North, Newark, New Jersey. Celebrities who received awards were: **Eileen Farrell, Art Gilmore, Al Schaffer, Johnny Western, Rhoda Williams.** Other celebrities present were **Arthur Anderson, George Ansbro, Dick Beals, Ann DeMarco, Gordon Davis, Mary Diveny, Sam Edwards, Shirley Eggleston, Barry Farber, Harry Fleetwood, Fred Foy, Toni Gillman, Bob Hastings, Pat Hosley, Will Hutchins, Elaine Hyman, Ron Lackmann, Ruth Last, Rita Lloyd, Peg Lynch, Bob Mott, Bill Murtough, Bill Owen, Rosemary Rice, Rosa Rio, Ken Roberts, Larry Robinson, Lynne Rogers, Margot Stevenson., Gale Storm.** The guests socialized with fans, participated in panels and workshops and re-created 9 radio shows.

The convention began Wednesday Evening with complementary Wine and Cheese and informal visiting and music, provided by Ed Clute and Jay Hickerson. Thursday Morning the dealers opened at 10 am. There were two afternoon panels: **Bill Murtough** visited with the audience with **Derek Tague** hosting; **Tom Powers** and friends discussed **Doc Savage** on Radio and re-created an episode. We then had cocktails and dinner. 78 fans attended during the day. 145 fans and guests attended in the evening. **Arthur Anderson** directed **Michael Leannah's** parody of **Dragnet**; **Johnny Western** performed with many songs he sang over the years including "The Ballad of Paladin." Fans then acted in a funny **Molle Mystery Program** directed by **Dave Zwengler**.

Friday began at 9:00 with the opening of the dealers room. Sixty dealer tables were active during the convention. 236 people attended dinner with another 126 in the afternoon. Workshops and panels included the following: **Gary Yogg** (Top ten comedy shows); **Sue Zizza** held a sound effects workshop, which she continued the rest of Friday and Saturday in a separate room. **Mitchell Weisberg** hosted a talk on **Westerns** with **Johnny Western**; **Max Schmid** with **Barry Farber** reminisced about **Jean Shepard**; **Peg Lynch** talked about her experiences in radio; **Mary Lou Wallace** and **Walt Mitchell** talked about **Mel Blanc**; **Gary Yogg** led a panel about **Father Knows Best** and comedies in general. **The Gotham Players** directed by **Steve Lewis** presented **Escape "The Blue Wall."** This is one of the best radio-related repertory groups in the country.

On Friday evening we had 3 re-creations: "The Glad Gladwyns" starring **Rosemary Rice** and **Bob Hastings**; **Richard Diamond** with **Bob Hastings** and **Rosemary Rice**, directed by **Don Ramlow** and **The Six Shooter** with **Will Hutchins** and **Dick Beals**, directed by **Anthony Tollin**. **Rosa Rio** with the help of her husband **Bill Yeomans**, gave a nostalgic performance of radio themes and **Gershwin** melodies.

Saturday the panels and workshops included the following: "Who Wants to be and OTR Trivia Champion?" hosted by **Mitchell Weisberg**; **Derek Tague** with **Fred Foy**, **Dick Beals**, **Elaine Hyman** and **Jim Nixon** took a humorous look and **The Lone Ranger**; **Andrew Sisters** panel hosted by **Gary Yogg** with author **John Sforza**. Also helping out were the **Boogie Woogie Girls** and **Ed Clute**; **The Hunterdon Radio Theater**, a local New Jersey repertory group performed an original production based on **Edgar Allan Poe's Tell-Tale Heart** called "The Broken Shutter;" **Jack French** talked about OTR gossips; **Anthony Tollin** with **Art Gilmore** gave an **Amos 'n' Andy** panel; **The Singers/Musicians** panel hosted by **Sty Weiss** and **Michael Henry** was the hit again; The panel consisted of **Gale Storm**, **Eileen Farrell**, **Johnny Western**, **Ann DeMarco** and **Rosa Rio**. It ended with a sing-a-long.

Saturday's events culminated with cocktails and buffet dinner for 331 people with another 186 coming for the day. After dinner **Peg Lynch** and **Bob Hastings** were **Ethel and Albert**; **Arthur Anderson** directed **Let's Pretend** production of "Cinderella" with **Rosemary Rice**. **Gary Yogg** then directed **Father Knows Best** with **Rhoda Williams** and **Sam Edwards** from the original roles. **Ed Clute** supplied the music for this and other re-creations. **Bart Curtis** with **Bob Mott** supplied the sound effects.

Besides the awards mentioned earlier, the **Allen Rockford Award** was presented to **Nana Clute, Mary Ramlow** and **Steven Hiss** for their outstanding effort in keeping radio and this convention alive. The **Ray Stanich Award** was given to **Gary Yogg** for all the excellent writing he has done. A special **Florence Williams** award was given to **Will Hutchins**. He has attended our convention for several years and have always been willing to help. Donations will be given to various organizations throughout the year.

Sunday morning found about 120 people having breakfast and listening to an entertaining and sometimes very hilarious panel consisting of **Toni Gillman**, **Peg Lynch**, **George Ansbro**, **Sam Edwards**, **Bill Murtough**, **Rhoda Williams**, **Art Gilmore**. It was hosted by **Anthony Tollin**.

I again want to thank all the guests who were very gracious in granting interviews and giving of their time to be with us.

BIOS OF NEW GUESTS

RUSSELL ARMS

A long and varied career best describes the background of Russell Arms. He has worked in radio, television, motion pictures, the legitimate stage, night clubs, records and commercials!

After graduating from the famous Pasadena Playhouse he signed a motion picture contract with Warner Bros. studio and appeared in several major motion pictures. Discovering he could also sing, he decided to try his luck in New York. Almost at once he got his own radio show where he sang the top hits five days a week. At the same time he landed a singing spot on a CBS network TV show. A year later he got his big break and signed a contract for a starring spot on the Hit Parade TV show where he stayed for the next six years. Records, night clubs, fairs, and many guest spots on TV quickly followed. He appeared on the Ed Sullivan show with his hit record, *Cinco Robles* and appeared on such dramatic shows as Perry Mason, Marcus Welby, Rawhide, Dragnet, Diff'rent Strokes, Hardcastle and McCormick, and many others.

His film work includes *The Long Gray Line*, *By the Light of the Silvery Moon* and *Captains of the Clouds*. He has worked extensively on stage playing Aristide in *CanCan*, Jimmy in *No, No Nanette*, Billy Crocker in *Anything Goes* and Mortimer in *Arsenic and Old Lace*.

CLIFF CARPENTER

Cliff Carpenter has extensive acting experience in virtually every venue. Featured for 25 years on dramatic radio programs including the following: *Terry and the Pirates*; *Just Plain Bill*; *Amanda of Honeymoon Hill*; *Burns and Allen*; *Showboat*; *The Al Jolson Show*; *The Kate Smith Show*; *Columbia Workshop*; *Thirteen by Corwin*; *Grand Central Station*; *Mystery Theater*; *Pursuit of Happiness*; and *Phillip Morris Playhouse*. His Broadway credits include: *Nobody Loves an Albatross*, *The Andersonville Trial*, *Sunrise at Campobello*, *Inherit the Wind*, and *Caesar and Cleopatra*. On television he has appeared in *The Defenders*, *The Patty Duke Show*, *Edge of Night*, and *Philco Playhouse*.

TOMMY COOK

Tommy started in show business at the age of eight, appearing in seven plays at the Pasadena Playhouse. He was discovered by Arch Oboler, famed radio director-writer, who called Tommy a "genius." Oboler starred Tommy in a radio show at the age of ten and later starred him in five important network plays written specially for Tommy's talents. Formerly one of Hollywood's leading child radio actors, Tommy has been heard in over 2,500 radio shows, has starred in 5 motion pictures, was featured in another 60 films and has appeared in over 70 television shows.

He was the original "Little Beaver" in *The Adventures of Red Ryder* film serial and the ABC radio series, "Alexander" in the CBS *Blondie* radio show, and "Junior" in the NBC *Life of Riley* radio series.

In 1949, he starred in *The Vicious Years*. He received rave notices, and Photoplay Magazine selected his performance as one of the year's finest.

Cook created the original concept for what later became ABC's *Mod Squad*. He sold a series starring himself, entitled *Young Man With a Badge* to NBC. An eight-week-long writer's strike cut short the show's future. He created and co-owned the Emmy-nominated CBS series, *Challenge of the Sexes* and the highly-rated prime-time specials, *Celebrity Challenge of the Sexes*. Cook originated the man vs. woman tennis challenge and signed Bobby Riggs and Billie Jean King to a winner-take-all match.

BEN COOPER

Born in Hartford, CT, Ben Cooper attended Columbia University and received his early training as an actor on the New York stage. While acting on Broadway, Ben appeared on daytime radio programs after school. He played in *Young Widder Brown*, *The F.B.I. in Peace and War*, and was "Dickie" on *Portia Faces Life*. He appeared in over 3,200 radio broadcasts and 250 live TV shows before getting a call to Hollywood.

After a screen test at Warner Brothers, someone at Republic Studios saw some footage, and he was given a part in his first film, *Thunderbirds*, in 1952. Next he appeared as the young Jesse James in Republic's *The Woman They Almost Lynched*. Herbert J. Yates, head of Republic, liked what he saw and signed the young actor to a contract. In the 1954 blockbuster, *Johnny Guitar*, starring Joan Crawford and Sterling Hayden, he played the outlaw, "Turkey Ralston" who was hung at the climax of the picture. Cooper followed with other prominent roles in Westerns, like *Jubilee Trail* with Vera Ralston and Forrest Tucker in 1954, *Rebel in Town* with John Payne in 1956, and *The Last Command* with Sterling Hayden in 1955.

Cooper met his wife, Pamela, while working with Ward Bond on the television series, *Wagon Train*, in 1959. After appearing in two 1971 westerns *One More Train to Rob* and *Support your Local Gunfighter*, he turned to guest roles on TV and played a running part in *Sheriff Lobo* with Claude Atkins from 1979 to 1981.

KEVIN O'MORRISON

Kevin O'Morrison has had considerable experience on the stage, the movies, and on radio. He appeared in Orson Wells' Mercury Theater productions and in the movie version of *Dear Ruth*. O'Morrison is better known as a playwright, than as an actor. Among his more successful plays are: *A Blanket for Janos*, U. of Montana Repertory Theater, under title "Requiem." *The Morgan Yard* (O'Neill National Playwrights Conference), *Ladyhouse Blues* (O'Neill National Playwrights Conference), *A Report to the Stockholders*, Playwrights Horizons, Queens NY, *A Party for Lovers*, National Repertory Theatre 1st Prize, Pub. Samuel French; a radio play *Ladyhouse Blues*. 1 hr. version of stage play, for Earplay-PBS, BBC (England) & BBC (Europe) Translated for German and Norwegian broadcasts, and 2 novels, *The Dead File*, Hardcover & Softcover: Barnes & Noble, *Honey*, published online: <http://www.nospine.com> and *The Passion of Brian Loftus* soon to be published Online: <http://www.nospine.com>.

His most recent acting credits include Gus' doctor in the *Lonesome Dove* CBS television miniseries, the sheriff in *Funny Farm* and Meg Ryan's father in *Sleepless in Seattle*.

MICHAEL TOWNSEND WRIGHT

Michael has been involved with acting since he was a little boy, first with puppet shows and then in theater companies. On radio, he helped Joe Franklin select records for *Memory Lane* as a teenager and often appeared as a guest. He was also on the Ed and Pegeen Fitzgerald program and in the 80's had his own daily 15 minute show called *The Nostalgia Club*. In addition, he was a cast member of the *Uncle Floyd Show* for 11 years.

He was burlesque star Joey Faye's sketch partner for five years. Recently, he has appeared in several films including *The Rat Pack* (where he played Walter Winchell) and *Lansky* (as Richard Dreyfuss' brother.)

These bios have been prepared by Gary A. Yogg from available information.

BEST WISHES TO ALL Friends of Old Time Radio Convention

FRANK BRESEE & TOMMY COOK

**“Remembering
Radio’s Golden Years”**

"TELL 'EM GROUCHO SENT YOU"

by
Frank Bresee

The first time I met Groucho Marx was in April, 1954. It was the final "You Bet Your Life" program of the season and I was fortunate to be able to join the 300 other people in the audience at the NBC Sunset and Vine Hollywood studios to watch the filming.

Groucho's show was the first one to be filmed at NBC and the process was unique because the Film Craft Company used four cameras, running simultaneously to film the action. After the program, which always lasted between an hour and an hour and a half, the films were edited to the thirty minutes which was seen on the air.

Following the filming, I was introduced to Groucho backstage, and I'll never forget his reply, "Have I ever met you before?" "No," to which Groucho replied, "Well, then, once should be enough." and then he raised his eyebrows in that famous Groucho manner.

My next meeting was eighteen years later, when in 1972, I wrote and produced the KFI 50th Anniversary program. All of radio's biggest stars were on this twelve-hour radio spectacular, Bob Hope; Jack Benny; Rudy Vallee; Jim "Fibber McGee" Jordan; Bud Abbott; Harry Von Zell; Hal "Gildersleeve" Peary; Edgar Bergen with Charlie McCarthy; and of course, Groucho Marx.

Each personality was allotted a half hour, and I tried to squeeze as much information and as many radio excerpts as I could in the thirty minute segments. Groucho recorded some special material for me, and he talked about his long show business career. One of the lines I wrote, which Groucho loved was:

"My best wishes on this Anniversary. And, if you want to have some fun sometime, find a Desoto-Plymouth dealer in your neighborhood. And, when you go in, tell 'em Groucho sent you. He may not sell you a car, but he'll sure give you some funny looks."

As far as I know, the last radio interview Groucho ever did was for my "Golden Days of Radio" program in September, 1977, a few weeks before his 86th birthday. The interview was done at his home in Beverly Hills. Groucho was in good form that day and he was especially excited about the many TV stations which were re-running his show "The Best of Groucho."

Groucho told me that he watched the show ever night on the local Los Angeles channel (KTLA) and said in his immodest way, "It's a great show," and he was right. Five hundred and twenty-eight programs is a record for a prime-time quiz show, or any other comedy program for that matter.

Groucho said that his daily routine included walking for exercise and he continued to spend several hours at the piano. To demonstrate he played, and sang several of Marx Bros. songs.

Groucho also said that he gave up smoking when he was 85. I asked him if he had given up anything else!

Groucho: "...are you referring to sex?"
Frank: "Yes."
Groucho: "I gave that up 30 years ago...but it was fun at the time."
Frank: "You mean it's no longer fun?"
Groucho: "It's impossible - when you're 85 see what you can do."
Frank: "What does your day consist of?"
Groucho: "Answering questions from people like you!"

Halfway through the interview, he looked over at my wife, Bobbie and pointing said, "What does she do?" I said, "Nothing now--she was a Playboy Bunny..." He paused and nodded his approval, and then offered "You know what I want on my tombstone?"

HERE LIES GROUCHO MARX,
AND LIES AND LIES AND LIES
P.S. HE NEVER KISSES AN UGLY GIRL!

Then he asked her how old she was, and Bobbie explained that she was about to celebrate her birthday. "Well young lady, if you keep having birthdays, you'll eventually die."

To close the interview, I asked Groucho how he would like to be remembered. With a serious look, he said, "as a nice man."

I think we will all remember Groucho Marx as a nice man. In his sardonic way, he was very kind. He was one of the greatest of all clowns and has reserved his place as one of the comedy legends.

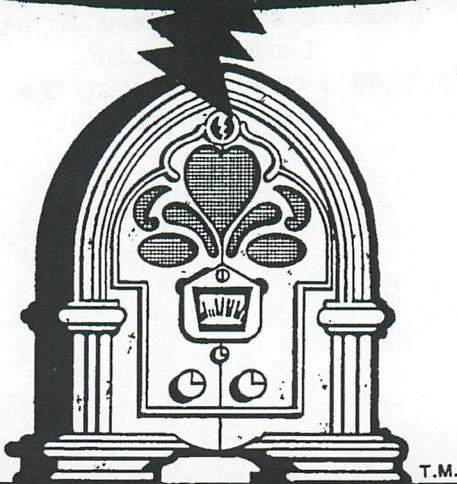
I think these words from "Animal Crackers" best describes my memory of Groucho:

Hello, I must be going,
I cannot stay, I came to say,
I must be going.
I'm glad I came, but just the same,
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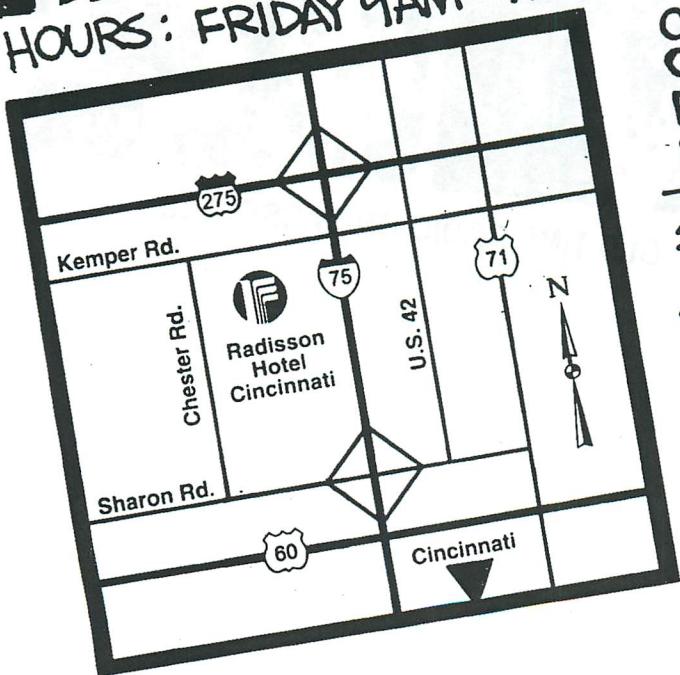
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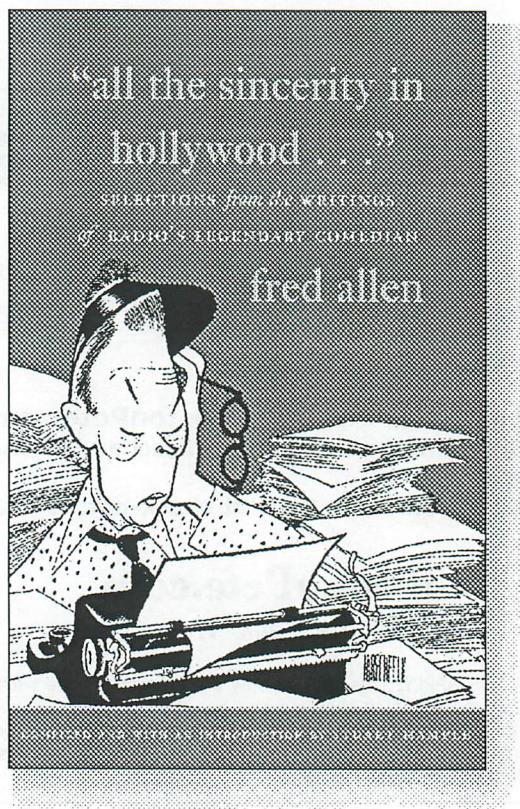
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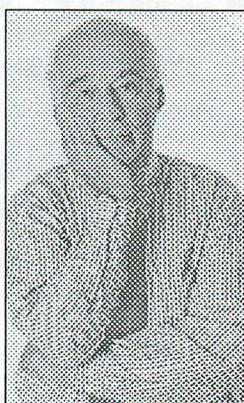
but there's more in this must-have collection of published and hitherto unpublished material, including fred's famous speech at the friar's bob hope roast; his only piece for *the new yorker*; the letter about the presbyterian cat; dark notes he habitually penciled on scraps of paper;⁽¹⁾ plus other riches.

publisher's unprecedented guarantee: "*all the sincerity in hollywood . . .*" will expand your allen trivia quotient up to 82.6% and render you more witty than even *you* think you are or double your money back.

⁽¹⁾eg. "the world is a grindstone & life is your nose."

as a brash young man, compiler stuart hample (who also wrote the introduction) handed allen a page of jokes. "son," allen rasped, "bringing a joke to me is like bringing a fender to henry ford."

no longer young but still brash, hample will share his reminiscences of allen at the convention thursday night. on saturday he'll sign books and swap allenania with all comers.⁽²⁾



⁽²⁾ a tad pushy as well as vulgar, hample will be wearing a t-shirt adorned with an oversized image of his book's cover.

Special Event:

Manhattan's Museum of Television & Radio will honor Allen on November 29 at 6 P.M. On the panel: Dick Cavett, Alan King, Betty Comden, Herb Sargent, Arthur Schlesinger, Jr., and Kurt Vonnegut. Destined to be a sparkling event.

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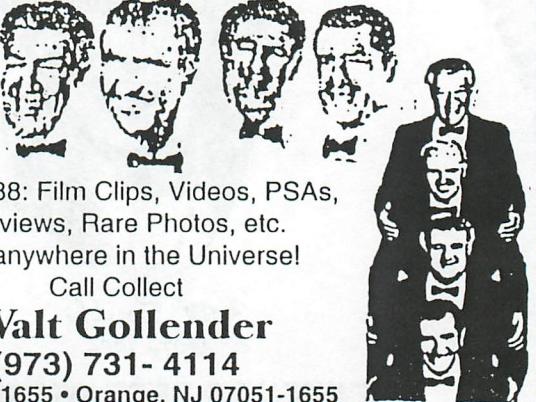
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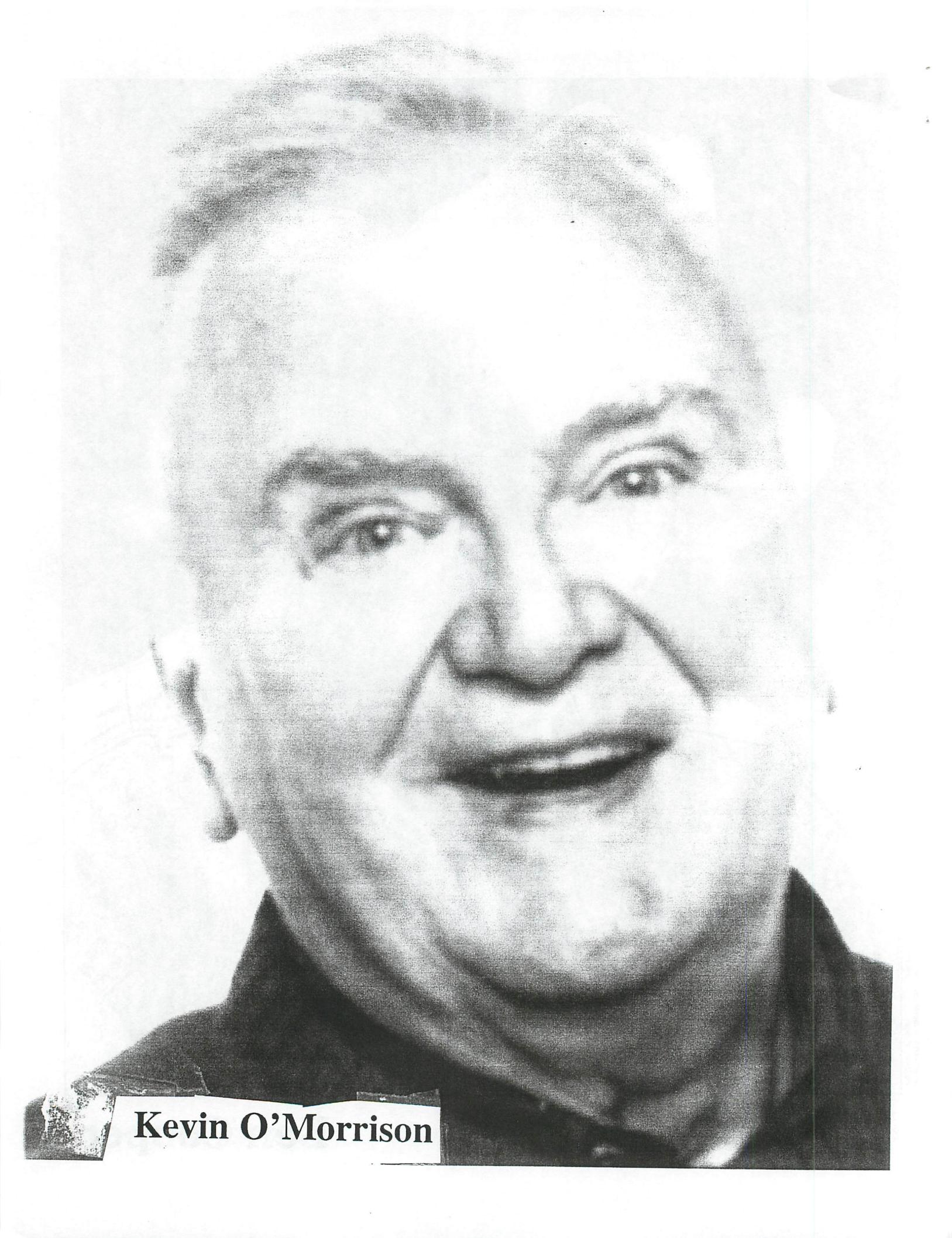
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